

EPA Climate Change and Water News

July 3, 2013

The *EPA Climate Change and Water News* is a bi-weekly newsletter from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Water that features news and information about EPA and other federal agencies related to climate change and water. Partner activities, as well as related events and publications, are also included.

For more information on climate change and water, please visit our website:
<http://www.epa.gov/water/climatechange>.

Other U.S. Federal Agency News

- [President Obama's Climate Action Plan Released](#)
- [Report Presents "The Impact of Climate Change and Population Growth on the National Flood Insurance Program through 2100"](#)
- [Federal Agencies Release Sea Level Rise Planning Tool for Parts of New York and New Jersey Impacted by Hurricane Sandy](#)

Other News

- [Urban Land Institute Releases Report: "Risk & Resilience in Coastal Regions"](#)

Other U.S. Federal Agency News

President Obama's Climate Action Plan Released

President Obama on June 25th announced the *President's Climate Action Plan* stating that "climate change represents one of the greatest challenges of our time." The Plan consists of a wide variety of executive actions focused around three pillars: cut carbon pollution in the United States; prepare the United States for the impacts of climate change; and, lead international efforts to combat global climate change and prepare for its impacts. The Plan includes sections on establishing a state, local, and tribal leaders task force, preparing for future floods, managing drought, boosting the resilience of infrastructure, supporting communities, and preparing a toolkit for climate resilience, in addition to many other topics. The Plan also states that federal agencies will be directed to ensure that climate risk-management considerations are fully integrated into federal infrastructure and natural resource management planning. To view the President's Climate Action Plan, visit:
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/image/president27sclimateactionplan.pdf>.

Report Presents "The Impact of Climate Change and Population Growth on the National Flood Insurance Program through 2100"

A recent report prepared for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) presents the findings of one of three components of a project entitled "The Impact of Climate Change and Population Growth on the National Flood Insurance Program Through 2100 & Improving Coastal Floodplain Mapping." Initiated in the fall of 2008, the project has significant implications for the protection of life and property nationwide, with three primary objectives: to evaluate the likely impact of climate change and population growth on the National Flood Insurance Program; to evaluate FEMA's Primary Frontal Dune regulations and policies; and, to evaluate a new coastal flood insurance zone. To view the report, visit:
http://www.aecom.com/deployedfiles/Internet/News/Sustainability/FEMA%20Climate%20Change%20Report/Climate_Change_Report_AECOM_2013-06-11.pdf.

Federal Agencies Release Sea Level Rise Planning Tool for Parts of New York and New Jersey Impacted by Hurricane Sandy

The U.S. Global Change Research Program, NOAA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and FEMA recently released a sea level rise (SLR) planning tool, which includes interactive SLR maps and a SLR calculator. This tool provides information on future risk of coastal flooding in parts of New York and New Jersey impacted by Hurricane Sandy. Using the best available science and data, federal agencies jointly developed this tool to help state and local officials, community planners, and infrastructure managers understand possible future flood risks from SLR and use that information in planning decisions. The tool does not tell communities or individuals how to rebuild; however, it can be used to inform decisions on how to balance the cost of rebuilding based on the amount of risk a community can tolerate over the long term. For more information on the tool, visit:

<http://www.globalchange.gov/what-we-do/assessment/coastal-resilience-resources>.

Other News

Urban Land Institute Releases Report: "Risk & Resilience in Coastal Regions"

Changing climate and weather patterns introduce new dimensions of uncertainty into a rapidly evolving real estate marketplace. Along with economic, demographic, and societal changes, uncertainty in future climate conditions and the underlying vulnerability of coastal areas require a critical review of coastal development and management practices. In January 2013, the Urban Land Institute convened an interdisciplinary group of market stakeholders to explore the implications of new environmental risks in coastal regions on real estate practices and markets. In addition to individuals representing the diversity of the real estate industry, forum participants included professionals from the insurance industry, government, and nonprofit organizations. Many shared valuable insights derived from their engagement in these issues and signaled that coastal risk is a business issue to be discussed today, not tomorrow. This report summarizes the dialogue from the forum and identifies eight themes for future study. The report is the first step in framing a broader set of activities that likely will engage many coastal communities for some time. To access the report, visit:

<http://www.uli.org/wp-content/uploads/ULI-Documents/CoastalRegions.pdf>.